



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY TO SCREEN “IPHIGENIA”

A Continuation of the Exciting “Ancient Greeks/Modern Lives: Poetry-Drama-Dialogue” Series

SAN DIEGO – SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Public Library continues its presentation of the *Ancient Greeks/Modern Lives: Poetry-Drama-Dialogue* series with Greek filmmaker Michael Cacoyannis’ film *Iphigenia*. The Library is one of only 16 libraries nationwide to receive a grant to host this series. Adapted from the Greek myth of Iphigenia, the film is based on Euripides’ play ‘Iphigenia at Aulus.’ The screening and discussion, moderated by classics scholar Katerina Zacharia of Loyola Marymount University, will take place Sunday, April 22 at 2:00 p.m. in the 3rd floor Auditorium of the Central Library, located at 820 E Street in downtown San Diego. Preceding the film will be a live *Greek Drama and Poetry Performance* in Ancient Greek and English by classics teacher and performer Mark Miner at 1:15 p.m.

Directed by Michael Cacoyannis (*Zorba the Greek*), *Iphigenia* ranks among the most impressive efforts to bring Greek tragedy to the screen, and touches upon the tragic consequences of war. This Oscar-nominated film retells the gut-wrenching story of commander Agamemnon during the Trojan War who is preparing to launch his legendary fleet of 1,000 army ships to retrieve the beautiful Helen of Troy. But the wind refuses to blow in the sails of the fleet, and Agamemnon is fatefully convinced that military victory can only be achieved if he sacrifices his daughter Iphigenia to the gods. Faced with her husband's deception and betrayal, Clytemnestra (Irene Pappas in one of the best roles of her career) responds with vengeful wrath and *Iphigenia* reaches a fever pitch of clashing agendas and devastating turmoil.

Ancient Greeks/Modern Lives: Poetry-Drama-Dialogue is a ground breaking in-depth partnership sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and involving New York’s acclaimed Aquila Theatre, the American Philological Association, the Urban Libraries Council, New York University’s Center for Ancient Studies, and the Harvard University Center for Hellenic Studies. Events are designed to inspire people to come together to read, see, and think about classical literature and how it continues to influence and invigorate American cultural life.

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Ancient Greeks/Modern Lives: Poetry-Drama-Dialogue is a program that has been made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: great ideas brought to life. www.ancientgreekmodernlives.org. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Learn about future programs in the *Ancient Greeks/Modern Lives: Poetry-Drama-Dialogue* series and other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library's catalog online at www.sandiegolibrary.org. All library events are free and open to the public.

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